GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:678
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2002
CHILDREN DRUGGED AND BURRIED IN TAMIL NADU
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to shocking ritual in Tamil Nadu, where over 100 children were drugged and buried for a few seconds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government propose to issue directives to the State Governments to ban such practices as such incident come as a rude shock to millions of Hindus in the country and around the world?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) to (c) Government is aware that the ritual of temporary burial of children , took place in Arulmigu Muthukuzhi Mariamman temple in Peraiyur Town and Taluk, District Madurai, Tamil Nadu on 21-8-2002 .The temple where the ritual wasconducted is not under the control of the Hindu Religious and CharitableEndowment Administration Department. It is being administered by a Committee consisting of 16 persons representing Pandiakula Vellalar community. This ritual is conducted by Pandiakula Vellalar community once in five to seven years for more than the last 200 years as form of fulfilling their vow; when the prayer to Arulmigu Muthukuzhi Mariamman for getting a child is fulfilled. They considerthat the child is a gift given by Muthukuzhi Marianmman and willingly bury the child in a pit of less than one foot depth for a few seconds. The Government ofTamil Nadu has since taken cognizance of this abhorrent practice and have enacted a legislation banning such practices in worship places in the name of custom prevailing in the locality.